

## Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208578

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XC

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,  
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

REGIONAL

MILITARY AID ZBB (CONF)

WE PRESENTED AND DEFENDED TODAY OUR MILITARY AID PROPOSALS  
FOR INDONESIA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND BURMA. THE MEETINGS  
WERE CONSTRUCTIVE, OUR PACAKGES CONSIDERED GENERALLY  
APPROPRIATE AND WE WERE NOT RPT NOT CHALLENGED ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS. OMB OUTLINED CAREFULLY THE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS WHICH  
WILL MAKE IT "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" TO ASSUME THAT CUR-  
RENT 1979 ASSISTANCE LEVELS CAN BE MAINTAINED. THE CURRENT  
PROJECTED GLOBAL MINIMUM IS ALREADY 100 MILLION DOLS OVER  
THE 1979 PROPOSED LEVELS MAKING IT ESPECIALLY PRECARIOUS  
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FOR THE SMALLER TIMBS PROGRAMS. NEVERTHELESS, THE GROUP  
APPEARED IMPRESSED WITH OUR RATIONALE AND SYMPATHETIC TO  
OUR GOALS.

REFUGEES (LOU)

THE REFUGEE SITUATION HAS WORSENERED YET AGAIN. EMBASSY KL

STATES "ARRIVALS HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH JULY AT RATE EXCEEDING ALL PREVIOUS LEVELS DESPITE STORMS, PIRACY, AND INCREASED RESISTANCE TO LANDINGS BY LOCAL MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS". CONSULATE UDORN REPORTS THAT "JULY INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE APPEARS TO BE HIGHEST EVER, REPRESENTING A 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER JUNE" (PARTLY SEASONAL BECAUSE OF THE RIVER LEVEL). IN MALAYSIA, ASYLUM WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE GENERALLY GRANTED, BUT GOM APPEARS TO BE INSTITUTING LIMITING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS A BACKLASH TO THE IMBALANCE IN ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE RATES.

BURMA

GUB AMB STARTS CALLS (UNCL)

BURMESE AMB U HLA SHWE IS BEGINNING HIS CALLS IN THE DEPT THIS WEEK SEEING UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, S/NM MS. FALCO AND AID ASST ADMIN SULLIVAN IN ADDITION TO YOU, BOB OAKLEY AND TIMBS. IT WILL BE OUR FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS WHETHER HE WILL BE INFORMED AND POSSIBLY EFFECTIVE IN US-BURMESE RELATIONS.

THAILAND

KRIANGSAK AND THE FUTURE (CONF)

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PM KRIANGSAK MOVED WITH APPARENTLY IMPRESSIVE SECRECY ON AUG 12 TO RESHUFFLE HIS CABINET IN A MANNER WHICH ENHANCES HIS POLITICAL OPTIONS AND RETAINS HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE MILITARY FOLLOWING HIS PENDING RETIREMENT AS SUPREME COMMANDER ON SEPT 30. KRIANGSAK ASSUMED THE POST OF DEFENSE MINISTER GIVING THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO TO FORMER DEFMIN GEN LEK. RUMORED ANTAGONIST GEN YOT BECOMES DEPUTY DEFMIN AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTED ADM. AMON. GEN LEK, AS MINISTER INTERIOR, WILL HAVE A ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING ELECTIONS. ADM. SA-NGAT, CHRMN OF THE NATL POLICY COUNCIL (NPL), IS THUS ISOLATED. INDEED, KRIANGSAK TOLD THE PRESS HE MADE THE CHANGES WITHOUT CONSULTING EITHER THE CABINET OR THE NPC FOR FEAR OF LEAKS. KRIANGSAK NOW APPEARS TO BE SLOWLY BUT STEADILY LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR HIS CONTINUATION IN OFFICE UNDER WHATEVER CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE MAY EMERGE.

INDONESIA

MULTIYEAR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE STRATEGY (LOU)

THE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE (DCC) CHAIRED BY

GOVERNOR GILLIGAN IS PREPARING A SERIES OF COUNTRY  
STRATEGY PAPERS AND INDONESIA IS CHOSEN FOR EARLY REVIEW

THE FIRST INTERAGENCY SESSION ON INDONESIA MET AUGUST 17.  
WE CONSIDER THIS REVIEW ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT  
THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF THE INDONESIAN  
ECONOMY IN THE YEAR OF REPELITA III AND IBRD'S REVIEW OF  
THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. EMBASSY JAKARTA WILL BE KEPT  
INFORMED AS THE WORK PROCEEDS. THE REVIEW IS NOT EXPECTED  
TO BE COMPLETED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AT THE EARLIEST. IN  
MANY RESPECTS, WE BELIEVE THIS REPORT MAY SERVE THE FUNC-  
TION OF NARROWING INTERAGENCY DISPUTE ON INDONESIA AND  
THE RESULTING RAMIFICATIONS ON US POLICIES AS REFLECTED  
IN THE DEBATE BETWEEN YOU AND FRED BERGSTEN EARLIER THIS  
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YEAR.

INDONESIA PROPOSES AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
(LOU)

SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM JAKARTA, AMBASSADOR  
MASTERS WAS GIVEN A GOI DRAFT AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC  
COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, ENERGY  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. THIS  
DRAFT HAS BEEN INITIALLY REVIEWED BY THE OES BUREAU WHO  
TOLD AMBASSADOR MASTERS THAT THE USG IS DEFINITELY  
INTERESTED IN PURSUING THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT AND IS  
FAVORABLY DISPOSED. A FORMAL RESPONSE FOR MINISTER OF  
STATE HABIBIE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY WILL BE SENT  
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW.

MALAYSIA

FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE CUT FOR MALAYSIA (LOU)

EMBASSY KL HAS INFORMED THE GOM THAT THE FY 78 MALAYSIAN  
PROGRAM OF FMS CREDITS WILL BE REDUCED BY 3.5 MILLION DOLS  
TO 16.5 MILLION DOLS IN ORDER TO MEET KENYA'S NEED. MID  
LEVEL MALAYSIAN REPS APPEARED TO BE UNDERSTANDING OF THE  
SITUATION, BUT WE HAVE NOT AS YET HAD ANY REACTION FROM  
SENIOR MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS. WE INFORMED THE MALAYSIAN  
CHARGE OF THIS SITUATION TODAY.

REQUEST FOR BILATERAL TALKS ON TIN (LOU)

EMBASSY KL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS  
BE HELD BETWEEN US AND MALAYSIAN REPS ON TIN PRIOR TO THE  
NEXT INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL MEETING. PRELIMINARY  
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SOUNDINGS OF EB INDICATE A RELUCTANCE TO TO THIS UNTIL  
THE CONGRESS HAS ACTED ON TIN DISPOSAL LEGISLATION. WE  
WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION WITH  
EB. VANCE

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